all a sole producer of coal in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) to (c) Some recommendations|allotments of coal were being received from sponsoring authrities| coordinating agencies on specified collieries carrying 10 per cent premium. In such cases it was presumed that the recommendation|allotment was made with the concurrence of the concerned consumer. Some consumers however challenged the charging of 10 per cent premium on coal produced in specified collieries over and above the prices notified for different grades of coal. High Court at Jabalpur disposed of those petitions on the assurance from the coal companies to the effect that consumers need not necessarily buy coal from the collieries carrying 10 per cent premium and they are free to purchase coal from other collieries.

(d) to (f) CIL does not fix the price of coal. The price of coal including premium on coal is fixed by the Central Government in exercise of the powers conferred on it by clauses 3 and 4 of the Colliery Control Order, 1945, as continued in force by section 16 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. Coal India Limited (CIL) charges the price of coal as per the statutory notification of the Government. Generally the criterion followed for fixing the price of coal is the recommendation made, after study, by the Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices. Under clause 4 of Colliery Control Order, different prices can be fixed for coal produced in different collieries.

Status of ash as vendible coal

3562. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether coal beyond 35 per cent ash was not considered as vendible coal till the erstwhile Coal Board was working;

(b) if so, under what considerations the present grading of coal upto 55 per cent ash is also declared as coal for industrial use; and

(c) whether it is a fact that lower variety of coal creates problems of pollution and of handling while utilising the same in different industries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) Yes, Sir. The erstwhile Coal Board had been grading coals of ash content upto 35 per cent and coals beyond this range of ash were considered to be non-vendible.

(b) and (c) In the present grading system coals with ash and moisture content upto 55 per cent have been considered as vendible. The conservation of valuable natural energy resources like coal was the main consideration taken into account in the present grading system. The consumption profile of coal has undergone vast changes over the last two decades. Earlier, the design of combustion equipment was such that only coals with high heat value could be utilised. With the emergence of Pulverised Firing of coal particularly in the thermal power station boilers, it has become possible to utilise coals with high ash content with high thermal efficiency The modern coal combustion equipment particularly the power station boilers can handle coals with high ash content without any serious problem. The environmental pollution mainly arises from the 'fly ash' produced when the coal is burnt. This problem can be considerably reduced by using beneficiated coal.

Non-availability of coal to Gujarat Electricity Board and SSI units

3563. SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL:

SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:

SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: